

Thunder Bay, Ontario



Volume 80

March 2014

Issue #3

Next Meeting
7:30 PM Thursday March 13th
55+ Centre
Craft Room
Special Presentation
Access and Use
Of
Remote Radios

SO2R

I'm not normally a fan of filling Hi-Q with links to YouTube videos, but Tom VE3CX sent me this link on Single Operator 2 Receiver (SO2R) operation. For those of you not familiar, it's in effect having 2 radios running and the output of each going to separate ears. You can therefore copy 2 QSO's at once. While working one station you're actively listening for another to work. This is how folks like Tom manage 200+ QSO's per hour in a contest and rack up huge scores.

For those of you who don't copy CW and think it's weird, this will do nothing to change your perception. For those of you who can copy CW but have never operated SO2R it will be humbling. And finally, those of you who can actually do it, it will be a symphony. Which ever you are, give it a listen and use stereo headphones.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Y4KW22VEJw&feature=youtu.be>

Bill VE3XT

Sleeping Giant Loppet

Many thanks to the intrepid volunteer operators that braved the cool temperatures of March 1st and provided communications for the Sleeping Giant Loppet. I lost count, but many participants were assisted due to cold and exhaustion.



VA3OJ at net control



Chris VA3TBA
Visiting net control



Race official &
liaison Bob
Coghlan



LARC SENATE

Robert Hansen VE3RVA
Dave Kimpton VE3AVS
Laurie Bridgett VE3BCD
Terry Stewardson VA3LU
Ed Baumann VE3SNW

LARC EXECUTIVE

President - Jeff Cederwall
VE3JTD

Vice President - Bob Hanson
VE3RVA

Secretary - Karl Hamilton
VE3RRP

Treasurer -Bill Unger VE3XT

Directors

Brad Harris VE3MXJ
Andy Malcolm VE3INI
Lori Bedford VE3VAI
Terry Stewardson VA3LU

LARC Emergency Coordinator

Brad Harris VE3MXJ 767-0628

ARES District Emergency Coordinator

VE3FAL Fred Lesnick 577-0789

CANWARN

VA3JMS John 767-3631
VE3MXJ Brad 767-0628

Public Service Events

VA3JMS John 767-3631

Accredited Examiners

VE3FAL Fred Lesnick 577-0789
flesnick@tbaytel.net
VE3VAI Lori Bedford 622 – 6386
ve3vai@tbaytel.net

ABOUT US

The Lakehead Amateur Radio Club (LARC) is an incorporated not for profit group of amateur radio operators in the Thunder Bay area that meet for self education, community service and fellowship. Our meetings are the second Thursday of the month at room 191 McIntyre Building, Confederation College, 7:30 PM. Our postal address is 1100C Memorial Ave. Suite 184, Thunder Bay, Ontario P7B 4A3. This newsletter is published monthly except for July and August by Ed Baumann VE3SNW and questions and submissions may be emailed to ve3snw@shaw.ca

Nets in the Thunder Bay Area

Sunday AMETHYST ARES VHF NET, on VE3TBR 146.820- pl 107.2 IRLP Ref. # 9031 @ 0045Z (7:45 pm), also Cook County ARES Response Team (CARRT) net at 0100Z (8 pm) on the BWARC repeater, Grand Portage repeater - 146.655 with CTCSS 151.4

Monday SATERN NET on VE3TBR 146.820- pl 107.2 IRLP Ref. # 9032

SATERN DIGITAL NETS on **Monday & Wednesday** nights

8 pm- 14.065

9 pm- 7.065

10 pm- 3.5835

Mode :Olivia 8/500 1000Hz waterfall centre

Tuesday 2M/ LARC ARES NET on VE3YQT 147.060- @ 7:00PM ET, and after this net is the new THUNDER BAY ARES DIGITAL NET on PSK31 between 1000 & 2000 WATERFALL 145.050 FM mode @ 7:30PM (usually starts after the 2m/ ares net)

Every Day The NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO ARES NET , every evening at 8:15PM (local) on 80m 3.750Mhz (note the time does not change with daylight savings time.)

Any questions on these or other nets please feel free to contact me at my e-mail: ve3mxj@rac.ca

LARC OPEN ACCESS REPEATERS

VE3YQT(Mount Baldy)147.060 (-600) Phone Patch

VE3TBR (St. Joseph's) 146.820 pl 107.2

442.075 (+5 MHz)pl 100

144.390 APRS

VE3UPP Upsala 145.470 (-600)

Remembering the Bay

Villy Madsen VE6SQ (ex VE3GHO)

I had an entirely unexpected landline call a couple of weeks ago. The voice at the other end of the fibre & wire (that of Bill Unger VE3XT) was one that I hadn't heard in more decades than I care to think about.

He asked me to brush off the memory neurons and provide him with "something" for the 80th anniversary of LARC.

The request fills me with some trepidation. I am hard to get started, but once I start, I am harder to get stopped. My *return* to Thunder Bay in 1971 had everything to do with Amateur Radio!

I had graduated from Lo-Ellen Park Secondary (in Sudbury) in 1970. I took the technology orientated university entrance program – which was in those days was a 5 year program that included shop courses (the alternative would have been arts & music as such like (gag)).

Having already been introduced to Amateur Radio by reading all K6ATX's novels (who can forget a call sign that is phonetized as "Always Take Exlax!"), I was delighted to find that the Electricity/Electronics teacher was a ham – Ken Buchanan VE3DLI (sk). Words cannot express the admiration that I had for Ken as a teacher.

When I finally decided half way through my second year of university that I didn't want to be a physicist, I approached another Sudbury ham – John Kennedy – who was a switching supervisor for Bell Canada about a job.

Within a week or so, I was climbing into a -40C icebox called a Twin Otter, for a flight to the Sault connecting to a "Ruptured Duck" going to YQT (That was my idea by the way!).

The Madsens had lived in Thunder Bay for a couple of years after we first moved to Canada in 1956. I did remember my favourite playmate – and she was still living in Port Arthur so I had a nice visit with her and her family.

As it happened, I had the choice of two positions – one as a switching technician and the other as a microwave technician. I don't like working outside in the winter.

When you are single, moves happen quickly. The DX-100, HQ-10 and all of that stayed in Sudbury. The pre-prog was in the car and provided the only contact

with the amateur world. There was not a lot of activity on 2 meters at that time, and one of the early contacts was with Brian Hind (who is now VE6XX living in the deep south of Alberta). Brian introduced me to Bruce Binnie (VE3GHB – I'll pass on the phonetics that he used to use <G>) and I believe Don MacKay VE3GST (sk).

Don and I spent a lot of time together, Bruce's place was a 2nd home and his office at the airport an obvious place to visit when he was working evenings or midnights.

The idea of a repeater surfaced quite quickly. I had used the Sudbury repeater, but had never really gotten involved in the care and maintenance. Don had the RF skills and I had the experience with digital circuitry to build the controller.

Serge Robillard, the manager at the Bell Toll Office was also a ham and we had a few discussions about putting repeaters at the Bell Microwave sites along the North Shore. One can always dream!!

As life would have it, I got married, was sent to Ottawa on a 6 month course, came back to Thunder Bay for 6 or 8 weeks and was then transferred to Toronto. A year or so in the big city and a move to Edmonton and Alberta Government Telephones ensued. I was quite active with the Edmonton Club in those early years and built a controller for the first ATV repeater in the Edmonton area.

I was active on 2m for a number of years and then QRX for a long time. Been back on the air (HF only) for about 4 years now and enjoying the contesting. I really enjoyed Thunder Bay, although that cold, damp wind that comes off the bay before freeze-up really does chill you through the bone. Family matters aside, a person could consider retiring there – except for the specter of trying to compete against VA3CX in the contests!

Congratulations LARC and 73s to all

Villy VE6SQ

North East Ontario Regional Directors Report for February, 2014



I have been promising to talk about RAC Membership numbers but other events have been getting in the way. So here goes. These numbers cover the period from December 31, 2012 until January 31, 2014. I chose this period as the numbers were readily available to the Board of Directors (BoD). At present we have 22 classifications of membership so I will only deal with the largest ones or those with large changes. Now, on to the numbers.

First the bad news, there are two categories where we lost an appreciable number of members. Life members who changed from a paper TCA to an eTCA, and unfortunately we are sending out 41 fewer. This is due to them becoming silent keys (SK). A large drop is in regular members who receive a hardcopy of TCA. There are 870 fewer Amateurs in this category (-25%). Am I concerned, yes, panicked, no? Read on. Any losses in other categories are less than 13 members, per category.

Now for the gainers. Regular members who have elected at a reduced price to receive an eTCA are at 682 up from 20 in December 2012 (+3310%). This is not a surprise, as we travel, iPads and tablets are more popular and we are becoming more environmentally conscious I see this number growing year over year. In all cases where an eTCA is offered the numbers are growing and our members are becoming even more tech savvy.

Our next big growth spurt is in Maple Leaf Members. To those of you, who can support RAC at this level, thank you. This group has gone from 241 in 2012 to 308 (+28%). These Amateurs are supporting RAC by membership at a \$100 level.

As you may be aware the total number of Amateurs in Canada is at an all time high and we want all of those new Amateurs to realise how important RAC is to them. Starting in November of 2013 in co-operation with Industry Canada each new Amateur is receiving a voucher for a free year membership in RAC and receives an eTCA. By the end of January we have had 85 new Amateurs take up the offer.

Affiliated clubs have increased from 83 to 125 (+51%).

As noted above unfortunately life members are becoming SK's, but 28 of them stepped up and paid extra for a paper copy of TCA. It shows they value a strong RAC and are willing to support it above and beyond. Thank you.

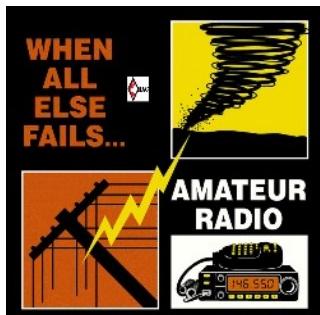
The bottom line is that we are off 14 members over this period and now sit at 4617. Considering the changes we made to the membership categories we're ok. However as a membership driven organisation we need to grow the membership. The BoD will be discussing strategies to increase the membership, so watch for them.

How are we doing? To paraphrase Samuel Langhorne Clemens (aka Mark Twain) "The report of our demise is greatly exaggerated".

If you're a member thanks, if not please consider it.

If you have any questions or concerns please email me at ve3xt@rac.ca

Bill VE3XT
North East Ontario Regional Director
Radio Amateurs of Canada



March

HI-Q Journal of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club

2014

Lakehead Amateur Radio Club

February 2014 Treasurers Report

Balance February 01 2014	<u>\$1,512.48</u>
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Income

Total Income	\$0.00
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Expenses

TB Tel Cell	\$0.57
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Total Expenses	\$0.57
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Balance February 28, 2014	\$1,511.91
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Trailer Account	
	Previous Balance
	\$784.91

Income

February 28 Interest	\$0.06
Total	\$784.97

Expenses

Total Expenses:	\$0.00
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Balance in Trailer Account	\$784.97
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Term Account

Balance February 01 2014	\$2,032.46
Interest February 04 2014	\$0.67
Balance February 28 2014	\$2,033.13

Bill Unger

VE3XT

Treasurer

Minutes of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club

Date: January 9, 2014

President, Jeff Cedarwall VE3JTD Presiding.

Treasurer's Report: Bill Unger VE3XT

Bill Unger VE3XT moved to accept the report as printed in the January Hi-Q. Seconded by George Dow VE3DOW. Passed Unanimously.

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Karl Hamilton VE3RRP moved to accept the December's meeting's minutes as distributed by email. Seconded by Andy Malcolm VE3INI. Passed.

Old Business:

Public Service (John Sacek VA3JMS public events coordinator)

Sleeping Giant Loppet

Jeff Cedarwall VE3JTD volunteered to coordinate the Loppet

CANWARN John Sacek VA3JMS

No activity

ARES Brad Harris VE3MXJ Thunder Bay EC

Tuesday night VHF Net on VE3YQT at 7pm. Everyone invited to check-in.

Sunday night NW ON Amethyst VHF net on

VE3TBR, IRLP Reflector 9031, 7:45 ET

Daily NW ON HF 3750 KHz, 8:15 ET if an operator is available

Looking for Volunteers for weekly NCS, contact VE3FAL

RAC Report Bill Unger VE3XT

Repeater News

Randy Gottfred VA3OJ,

Terry Stewardson VA3LU

VE3YQT has new batteries installed – yet to be tested in action. The IRLP on VE3TBR is being looked at. Uppsala should be operational next week.

Club Trailer:

Bob Hansen VE3RVA Trailer is stored for the winter.

2 Day Weekend License Course

Planning for the last weekend in February. \$40 charge. Doug VE3EFC has a free Android app to practise the exam available in the app store.

Annual Dinner:

Will be at same venue in Chicago Joes. Thursday April 10th 6 PM.

New Business

Bill Unger VE3XT is looking for volunteers to help have radio fun with 30 air cadets at VE3SAO on January 28th.

The JohnBeargrease Sled Dog Race south of the border is accepting volunteer operators for January 26 -29.

50/50 Draw: Mike Skillen VE3EDX

Adjournment moved by: George Dow VE3DOW

Next Executive Meeting: February 6, 2014

Next LARC Meeting:

February 13, 2014



VE3XT is cleaning the Shack

It's time to downsize and the following goodies need to goto a new home.

Millen Grid Dip Meter c/w all coils	\$ 40
Heathkit HW 8 QRP transceiver, modified for RIT	\$ 75
Bird 500B element (still in original plastic)	\$ 50
Simpson RF Ammeter 0 to 500 mA (original box)	\$ 50
Eimac 4CX 250B never used in original box (Qty 2)	\$100 each
Jennings VAC Caps ~ 250 pF (I have several)	\$200 each
Jennings Variable VAC Caps 7.5 kV 50 to 350 pF (I have several)	\$350 each
Telefunken TF25 6M XCVR with xtals	\$ 20
Sony Short Wave Receiver ICF6500	Offers
Alinco DX70 HF + 6M Transceiver	\$400
Kenwood TS 120S Transceiver, This rig has an intermittent	Offers
Heathkit 2M Amp HA 201	\$ 10
Heathkit VTVM Model V 7 A with leads, RF Probe and manual	\$ 10

Send me an email and I will send pictures of any item you wish to see. And always open to offers on any of the above. And just in case you're wondering if I am getting out of Radio, the answer is no. I am getting out of warehousing ;-)

Bill VE3XT ve3xt@rac.ca

Industry Canada Rolls Out Updated Ham Radio Question Pool, New Exam Generator

03/07/2014

Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) reports that telecommunications regulator Industry Canada (IC) has released an updated Amateur Radio examination question bank — or pool — based on recommendations from RAC. IC also launched a new exam generator.

"This is good news that we were eagerly anticipating," RAC President Geoff Bawden, VE4BAW, said. "We were pleased to work with IC on this issue of significant importance to Amateur Radio operators, and RAC will continue to work with Industry Canada to provide Canadian radio amateurs with the best possible circumstances to pursue their hobby."

According to RAC, Industry Canada issued a Request for Proposals in December 2012 to update the Amateur Radio question pool. RAC subsequently entered into a contract with IC in January 2013 to update the question pool in English and in French — Canada's official languages.

RAC reports the review team examined more than 3000 questions and 12,000 possible answers for the Basic and Advanced examinations in English and French "and aimed for perfection in every one," the organization

said. "Technical and linguistic accuracy were equally important in the review."

RAC said changes included correcting factual errors, replacing obsolete language and examples, making questions and answers clearer, and ensuring that questions addressed current Amateur Radio practices and regulations. For the most part the team was able to make the majority of changes by editing existing questions, but it also recommended the deletion of obsolete questions and the addition of new ones. RAC said comments elicited from radio amateurs in Canada helped the team identify where changes were needed. RAC wrapped up its work a year ago.

RAC said that with new question pools in place, RAC will prepare information identifying where changes have been made to assist instructors in modifying their course materials and examiners in preparing for the changes. Neither the curriculum nor the topics addressed in the exams have changed, but revised questions are more clear, more accurate, more understandable and more relevant to modern Amateur Radio, RAC said. "Francophones should immediately see a significant improvement in the French language questions," it added.

...via ARRL news

March 2014

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
			Coffee @ Boston on Arthur 9pm Every Thursday		1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 LARC Meeting 7:30 at 55+ 700 River Street	14 Happy Pi Day!	15	16
17	18	19	20 Spring! 1257 EDT	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						